

New Item #1
6-27-06



Michele Evans/Alex
06/26/2006 08:05 PM

To Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov, Ignacio Pessoa/Alex@Alex
cc Valerie Brown/Alex@Alex, Jim Hartmann/Alex@Alex
bcc
Subject Fw: Update on Flooding and Storm Impacts
Emergency Declaration

Hi,

The City Manager has issued a declaration of a state of emergency due to our flooding situation. We will need a supplemental item on tomorrow night's docket for Council to confirm this.

Thanks
Michele

----- Forwarded by Michele Evans/Alex on 06/26/2006 08:03 PM -----



Michele Evans/Alex
06/26/2006 07:37 PM

To City Council
cc Bob.Luckett@alexandriava.gov, Jim Hartmann/Alex@Alex, Brian Hannigan/Alex@Alex, Arthur Dahlberg/Alex, Steve.Mason@alexandriava.gov, Mark Jinks/Alex@Alex, David Baker/Alex@Alex, Charles Samarra/Alex@Alex, Gary.Mesaris@alexandriava.gov, Kirk Kincannon/Alex@Alex, Doug.McCobb@alexandriava.gov, Rich Baier/Alex@Alex, Dana Lawhorne/Alex@Alex
Subject Update on Flooding and Storm Impacts

The following is a more detailed description of the impacts of last night's torrential rain on Alexandria and the City's response. The storm that hit Alexandria was very unusual in its intensity and in the amount of rain that fell on the city (five to seven inches) in a very short period. Our storm sewers are not designed for this amount of rainfall, and thus we experienced flooding in multiple locations in the City when storm drains and streams became overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water.

We have met with the City's emergency management team this afternoon, participated in several regional conference calls and are proceeding with a number of follow-up efforts. Our EOC will be open tonight and tomorrow and we are monitoring the weather forecast carefully in anticipation of another possible 1 to 2 inches of rain tonight, more heavy rain tomorrow night and potential flooding of the Potomac River tomorrow night or on Wednesday.

The City Manager has declared a state of emergency so that we can assist the businesses who were impacted by the storm to obtain federal or state assistance that may be available. City staff will work with City businesses to facilitate this. We also will be in touch with King Street businesses to keep them informed about potential flooding.

Summary

Between 5 and 7 inches of rain fell in the Alexandria area last night in addition to the two inches of rain we received on Thursday. Last night as reports of rising water came into emergency communications, firefighters and police officers were dispatched to rescue stranded motorists. Some of the highest water was in the area of Cameron Run near Eisenhower Avenue behind the Avalon Bay commercial office buildings (Alexandria Tech Center) and the nearby Marriott hotel (2800-2900 Eisenhower Avenue). Dozens of people were rescued by our emergency workers from vehicles as water rose to neck high levels in some places. Today we saw the many overturned and flooded vehicles that remained in this area. The Avalon Bay building occupied by the Alexandria Police Patrol division also flooded and this division was relocated to the public safety center at Mill Road. Another of the Avalon Bay buildings had at least four feet of water in its underground garage. The entire area was covered with mud and debris and a massive clean-up effort is underway.

This is also the area near the section of the Beltway at Telegraph Road that was closed last night and not reopened until this morning because of standing water, mud and debris in the roadway.

Cameron Run also rose and flooded Eisenhower Avenue leaving several feet of mud in the road of the Clermont connector to the Beltway. VDOT handled the clean-up of Clermont Avenue, while our Transportation and Environmental Services staff worked all day to remove the mud that was left in the lanes of Eisenhower Avenue near Clermont.

These same flood waters moved on to the Huntington area of Fairfax County where 75 homes were evacuated due to flooding. We have been in touch with the County's emergency management staff and will be working with them on any issues of mutual concern.

Another hard hit area in Alexandria is the South Pickett Street area backing up to Backlick Run. The waters in Backlick Run rose and flooded the backs of the commercial area in the 600-800 block of South Pickett Street. The flood waters were so strong that they ripped metal stairs away from the back of one building and overturned cars and vans parked behind the buildings. Today mud and debris and flooded and overturned vehicles remained. Business owners have been out with their employees attempting to clean up. Tom Fairchild and Bill Regan will be contacting the businesses and assisting them in any way possible. Code Enforcement's damage assessment team will be out in the area tomorrow to do a complete assessment of conditions there as well as on Eisenhower Avenue.

Virginia Paving, which is on the other side of Backlick Run, also experienced flooding, but damages were limited to two private vehicles.

Trees were down in many areas and Recreation staff and its tree crews worked through the night to address downed trees. Most power has been restored, although at 4 p.m. 1,100 Alexandria customers were still without power. Dominion Virginia Power is working to address the outages.

Many residential areas in the City experienced flood conditions as a result of the torrential

downpours. The majority of these involved massive amounts of storm water run off, which resulted in flooded cars, basements or first floors. Taylor Run went over its banks and flooded Angel Park and West Taylor Run Parkway when water backed up as a result of the Cameron Run flooding. Janney's Lane was damaged at Francis Hammond Parkway by the flood water. (This has been addressed by TES.)

Some other examples of flooding include:

Storm water flowing at Warwick Village resulted in residential flooding and a sink hole in the roadway near Landover and Burgess Streets. Repair work is underway.

The mechanical room at Hampton Court on N. Armistead Street flooded and a small electrical fire resulted; it was contained quickly.

Parkfairfax experienced residential flooding from storm water which flooded the first floor of some units.

Residents in Delray experienced basement flooding. Some residents also experienced sewer back-ups, especially those who did not chose to install back-flow preventers.

Storm water rose and flooded parked cars near the King Street Metro Station, on South St. Asaph Street near Wilkes and Gibbon Streets and on Commonwealth Avenue.

Reed Avenue and Old Dominion experienced flooding and three buildings at the Kingsport Apartments had water in their basements. Code Enforcement staff is working with them on addressing this.

We continue to monitor the water flow in Cameron Run and other streams. We have been in touch with Fairfax County and the operators of the dam at Lake Barcroft to ensure that we are aware of water flow into Holmes Run and Cameron Run in addition to any predicted rainfall.

Potomac River Flooding

We are monitoring weather conditions carefully, since the National Weather Service is predicting Potomac River flooding over late Tuesday into Wednesday and possibly Thursday. The amount of flooding would depend upon the arrival of the heavy rain predicted. The river could be at four feet over flood stage on Wednesday, which would be about half way up the 100 block of King Street. Staff is working with the merchants, supplying sand bags and ensuring that we place barricades and divert traffic as necessary.

We are monitoring the Backyard Boats property and have been in touch with the developer about ensuring that the development's flood gate is up to protect the underground garage that was flooded during Hurricane Isabel.

We will continue to keep you informed about any new developments. If you have any questions please call either City Manager Jim Hartmann or me.